

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A offset determining system, upon a putting green having a topography of varying slope, for use by a golfer in hitting a golf ball from a maximum position toward a hole having a hole center, to suggest to the golfer a redirected putt line that varies by an offset distance transverse to and at the hole from a direct putt line which extends between the ball and the hole center, comprising:
  - a target having a target face having a target line extending thereon, the target for positioning adjacent the hole with the target line aligned with the direct putt line; and
  - 15 a measurement device having a housing having a top, a bottom, a pair of transverse sides, a rear, and a front, and positioning indicia for aligning the rear transverse to the direct putt line, the measurement device having a transverse inclinometer extending longitudinally between the transverse sides and substantially parallel to the bottom, the measurement device having a rangefinder for determining distance between the front and the target, the measurement device having a control unit for determining the offset distance from at least two measurement sets each having a distance to the target and a slope at that distance and a display for providing the offset distance to the user, wherein one of the measurement sets is acquired upon placing

the measurement device at the maximum position, and another of the measurement sets acquired upon placing the measurement device further toward the hole along the direct putt line.

5 2. The offset determining system as recited in claim 1, wherein the target has a pair of short sides and a pair of long sides, such that when acquiring the measurement sets, one of the short sides is positioned on the green such that the target line extends vertically behind the hole.

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3. The offset determining system as recited in claim 2, wherein the target face has a plurality of calibrated lines along at least one of the long sides, which indicate various distances from a center of said long side, such that said 15 long side is positioned upon the putting green transverse to the direct putt line after the offset distance is calculated, to help the golfer redirect the putt line by using the calibrated markings to redirect the putt line by said offset distance.

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4. The offset determining system as recited in claim 3, wherein the measurement device has a longitudinal inclinometer, extending longitudinally between the front and rear, such that each of the measurement sets includes and 25 longitudinal slope and a transverse slope.

5. The offset determining system as recited in claim 4,  
wherein the measurement device has a display for visually  
indicating the recommended offset distance and has selection  
buttons for allowing the user to control functionality of the  
5 measurement device.

6<sup>5</sup>. The offset determining system as recited in claim 4,  
wherein the measurement device has an arched tunnel centered  
between the transverse sides and extending longitudinally  
10 from the front for positioning the golf ball within the  
archway when the measurement device is at the maximum  
position.

7<sup>6</sup>. The offset determining system as recited in claim 6,  
15 wherein the selector buttons include a read button for  
prompting the acquisition of a measurement set and a button  
for prompting the calculation and display of the recommended  
offset distance.

20 8<sup>7</sup>. The offset determining system as recited in claim 7,  
wherein one of the short sides has a protrusion sized and  
shaped for extending within the hole to allow the target to  
be positioned upon the putting green with said short side  
extending across the hole.

8. The offset determining system as recited in claim <sup>8</sup>~~7~~,  
wherein the selector buttons include a data button for  
displaying the measurement sets that have been acquired.

5 <sup>10</sup>~~8~~. The offset determining system as recited in claim <sup>9</sup>~~8~~,  
wherein the selector buttons include a mode button for  
selectively displaying the recommended offset distance in  
British and metric units.

10 <sup>11</sup>~~10~~. An offset determining method for use by a golfer on a  
putting green having a hole having a hole center, in putting  
a golf ball on the green toward the hole, where the golf ball  
is located at a maximum position, a direct putt line connects  
the ball with the hole center, an offset line extends  
15 transverse to the direct putt line at the hole, and the  
putting green has a topography of varying slope, using a  
measurement target having a target face having a target line  
visible thereon, and using a measurement device having a  
housing having a bottom, a front, a rear, a pair of  
20 transverse sides, a rangefinder at the rear, an inclinometer  
extending parallel to the bottom between the transverse  
sides, comprising the steps of:

- (a) aligning the target line with the direct putt line  
25 by positioning the target at the hole;
- (b) positioning the measurement device at the maximum  
position by placing the bottom upon the putting green;

(c) acquiring a measurement data set at the maximum position by measuring the slope by the inclinometer and the distance to the target by the rangefinder;

5 (d) repositioning the measurement device along the putt line closer to the hole than the maximum position by placing the bottom upon the putting green;

(e) acquiring another measurement data set by measuring the slope of the putting green using the inclinometer and the distance to the target using the rangefinder;

10 (f) calculating a recommended offset distance by the device using the measurement data sets; and

(g) aiming the putt by the golfer at the hole, redirected by the recommended offset distance on the offset line.

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<sup>12</sup> 11. The offset determining method as recited in claim <sup>10</sup>, wherein the measurement device has selector buttons, wherein steps (c), (e), and (f) further comprise pressing one of the selector buttons by the user.

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<sup>13</sup> ~~12~~. The offset determining method as recited in claim <sup>11</sup>, further comprising repeating steps (d) and (e) to allow precise mathematical modeling of the topography along the direct putt line.

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<sup>14</sup> ~~13~~ 13. The offset determining method as recited in claim <sup>12</sup>, wherein the measurement device has both a transverse

inclinometer and a longitudinal inclinometer, both extending parallel to the bottom, and wherein steps (c) and (e) further comprise acquiring both transverse and longitudinal slopes.

- 5       <sup>15</sup>~~14~~. The offset determining method as recited in claim <sup>14</sup>~~13~~, wherein the target has a pair of short sides and a pair of long sides, the target line extending longitudinally parallel to the long sides, the target having a plurality of calibrated lines located along one of the long sides which  
10 are spaced to indicate distances therealong; wherein the step of aligning the target line with the direct putt line further comprises positioning one of the short sides upon the putting green; and wherein step (g) of aiming the putt by the golfer at the hole:
- 15       is preceded by the step of positioning the target upon one of the long sides by rotating the target, and further comprises aiming the putt at the one of the calibrated lines on the target corresponding to the recommended offset distance.
- 20       <sup>16</sup>~~15~~. The offset determining method as recited in claim <sup>15</sup>~~14~~, wherein the measuring device has an arched tunnel extending upward from the bottom and rearwardly from the front, and wherein the step of positioning the measurement device at the maximum position further comprises positioning the measurement device with the arched tunnel extending over the golf ball.

17 16. The offset determining method as recited in claim 15,  
wherein the measurement device has a display, and wherein the  
method as recited further comprises visually indicating the  
5 recommended offset distance to the user with the display.